

Salish Sea Island Tides

Giving The Coast A Community Voice For 27 Years

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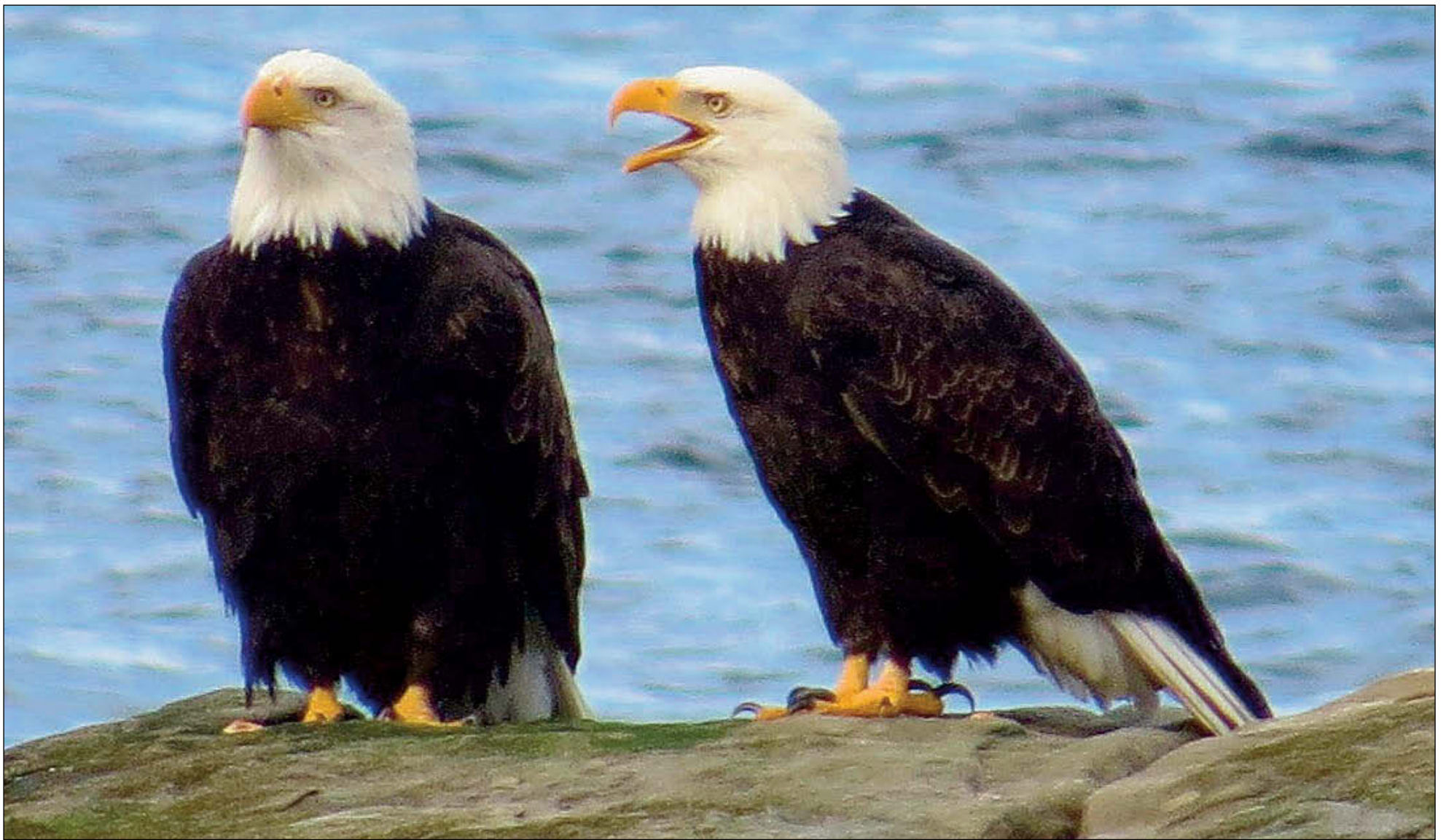


Photo: Tina Kirschner

A pair of eagles hang out on Gabriola's Whalebone Beach.

Towns coping with water supply following oil spill into North Saskatchewan River - Natalie Dunsmuir

A crude oil pipeline in Saskatchewan leaked between 200,000 and 250,000 litres of oil into the North Saskatchewan River in late July. Husky Energy, the company that owns the pipeline, responded to the spill on the morning of July 21, though their incident report shows they first discovered the spill at 8pm the previous night. The pipeline was shut down and booms were put in place downstream from the spill, but high waters helped carry oil over.

Clean Up Efforts

Currently, nearly 133,000 litres of oil and other leaked materials have been recovered from the river, but oil has been sinking to the bottom, making it much harder to recover. Clean-up efforts continue. So far, 38 kilometres of shoreline has been assessed and seven kilometers has been washed.

Eleven booms remain in place in an attempt to contain any oil that is still floating. According to the Saskatchewan government however, it is very unlikely that all the oil will ever be recovered.

Water Supply

Communities downstream from the spill were forced to close water treatment plants and issue water advisories. The city of North Battleford, which draws half of its water from the polluted river, hurried into constructing a temporary pipeline to a new source of water in its sister community of Battleford. But this isn't a permanent solution—colder weather will quickly freeze the pipeline. So far, the water supply in the town has held up,

mostly as a result of tight water restrictions. Laundromats and car washes have been closed and those watering lawns or washing cars are fined.

The town has also approved the drilling of four new wells in the hope that they will help replace at least one third of the water previously taken from the North Saskatchewan River.

In Prince Albert, officials say the water situation is beginning to return to normal after a state of emergency was declared following the spill. The city constructed a 30-kilometre emergency waterline to the South Saskatchewan River, which began delivering water to the community on August 2. Water from the Little Red River has also been added to the city's reservoir system. Prince Albert is hopeful that these new sources will tide it over until it is possible to draw water from the North Saskatchewan River again.

The City of Melfort was also affected by the spill. The city shut down its water intake from the river and is supplying more than 7,000 residents with water from a nearby dam site. Boil water advisories have been issued across the community, as the water from the new site is not as clean as the river water previously was.

Wildlife has also been affected by the spill. So far, 58 birds, fish and other species have been reported dead, and habitats have been destroyed by the oil.

Husky Energy has issued a public apology for the spill. The cause of the leak is being investigated; it is so far unknown. ☞

Library Volunteers Are Unsung Heroes - Frants Atorp

The next time you go to the library to borrow a book, order materials from off-island, or participate in a program, take a moment to thank the volunteers. Chances are, the services you are enjoying would not be possible without them.

On Salt Spring Island, the new architecturally green-designed library has become tremendously popular since it opened its doors in 2012. Chief librarian Karen Hudson reports there are now over 200,000 visitors per year and that number continues to rise. 'Use of the library has far exceeded expectations,' she says. 'And none of that would have been possible without the help of a great many community volunteers.'

There are just three paid full-time staff members at the library supported by a whopping 180 volunteers. Compare that to Powell River where a library of similar use has four times as many paid staffers.

Salt Spring volunteers do everything from assist the public and restock shelves to coordinate the small army of volunteers. For some, the work takes nearly as much effort as a full-time job.

One might think the information age, and particularly the internet, would have sounded a death knell for traditional libraries. But not so, according to Hudson: 'Audio books and e-books have become immensely popular, but regular books are also very much in demand. The only decline has been in large-print books. They are gradually being replaced by e-readers or iPads.'

The commitment to the library does not stop

with in-house volunteers. Much of the funding for the facility comes from community fundraisers and private donations. Those monies, along with funding from the CRD and the province, keep the library in operation. 'The generosity and support from the community are overwhelming,' says Hudson.

Nikky McCarvill, coordinator of child and youth programs, indicates her department is also supported by volunteers, many of whom are in their teens. 'We currently have two part-time teen employees and six more who volunteer,' she says.

Thanks to all those helping hands, the library is able to offer a wide range of programs and workshops for children, youth and young adults. Depending on the time of year, there is everything from writing groups and book clubs to workshops that focus on life skills.

The new library has become a social centre for teens, including numerous home-learner children. 'Many use the library to do homework, play collaboratively on computers or meet friends,' she says. 'Games night on Friday evenings is popular with youth of all ages and a movie night is now being considered.'

The library has plans to expand its youth programs and recruit more teen volunteers. 'We're hoping to broaden our selection of activities and start a youth advisory council that can help us identify which programs young people would like to see implemented.'

The amazing volunteer story is repeated on other islands. Manager Carmen Oleskevich is

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Island Tides

24/7 online
Linking the coast
for 27 Years



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When I started putting each edition of *Island Tides* online back in year 2000—about 11 years into publishing *Island Tides*—I had no idea how huge our website, with all its archives, would grow.

Published on November 8, 2001, Patrick Brown's, 'A War of Convenience' was the first in our Oil+Gas+Coal topic archive (there are 18 other topic archives). It begins: 'Fundamentalist Islam threatens the current regimes of the mostly undemocratic governments of the Middle East and Central Asia. These governments control some 20% of oil consumed by the US ...' It and the following one 'Caspian Basin pipelines' explain a lot about today. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*. This is the struggle of the 21 century. And it is all about climate change, really. In this edition, you will read about the climate change connection to refugees in Greece, too.

The world does seem quite mad but this is it—this is what climate change does to humans. Luckily, many people are working hard (and profitably) to restabilize human society. A sea-change to a kinder, more sane human society is on the way—we just needed it yesterday.

At www.islandtides.com nowadays, each and every day 500 more people click on their pdf newspaper to read about the islands, islanders, and their concerns, things to do, and find businesses that will provide goods and services.

For this edition, www.islandtides.com is really coming into its

own. After a month of false alarms and holding our course, I decided to not to distribute via Canada Post into mailboxes this edition. A Canada Post strike and/or lock-out seems likely. This was a difficult decision but risking having newspapers sit on a Canada Post dock after spending a lot of money is not prudent.

This edition has obviously reached you. So that the news and our advertisers are sure to be seen by everybody, would you please send the link, www.islandtides.com, to all the people on your email list? This will be a big help in getting the news out. If you have friends or neighbours who can't read on screen, could you have reading parties? Please talk it up, reactions will be interesting.

The fabulous advantage for this edition is that there are more pages of news and tons of vivid photos—tight space restriction is lifted for this one, so is washed-out print colour. We have been able to put in great articles that have been waiting in the wings for space to publish. It's great reading! Tell us how you liked the edition.

For more online content, don't forget our Twitter: @islandtides.com, my blog: islandtideschrista.wordpress.com, and Island Tides TV on YouTube. These three are a bit thin on content, as yet, but I expect they will grow in the same great way that www.islandtides.com did.

BTW, it's getting late; please send this year's voluntary subscription, if you haven't already. Thank you! —CG-W

Readers' Letters

Electric Vehicles on the Gulf Islands

Dear Editor:

As a follow-up to my article in the July 14 *Island Tides*, we on Salt Spring Island are interested in all of the Gulf Islands increasing ownership of Electric Vehicles (EV) and charging infrastructure. During Salt Spring's efforts, we discovered ways to build funding envelopes that could be made available to subsidize the installation of the charging units and we would like to share those strategies.

Why? The end result is good for our precious west coast environment. Quiet and emission-free vehicles are fun to drive

working towards a common goal. It is a bit of work but, with sharing, the effort is dramatically reduced. The end result is pretty darn pleasing and the projects are fun and rewarding. Interested? If so, please contact me at jim.standen@gmail.com or 250-537-5646.

Jim Standen, Salt Spring Island
Shawnigan Soil Dump

Dear Editor:

We are all so busy year-round, and never more so than in the summer, so perhaps we can be forgiven if our efforts to stop this dump have taken the backburner recently. That needs to stop now, however; we are still here, we are still threatened by our own elected officials and by South Island Resource Management and their contaminated soil dump in our lake's watershed. We are being compliant, SIRM is not, and they continue to put our welfare, our environment and our future at risk, with the approval of the Liberal government. SIRM says they routinely communicate issues (read: problems) with their site to the Ministry of the Environment.

This means Mary Polak and her staff are well aware, and always have been, of the dangers and the actual damage to our lake. Yet she and they are still confident in their power by allowing the dump to continue. Easy for them—they don't live here. But we do, and since we can't depend on our government, we have only ourselves and each other to rely on. We cannot fail the way the Liberals have, or we'll be as negligent as they are.

Stepping things up, Straight Outta Shawnigan!

Elaine Dale Fitch, Shawnigan Lake

Global Fund

Dear Editor:

With all the tragedy that is happening globally, it's hard to think of the good things that are happening. Canada is playing a role in the good things. The Global Fund is an organization of more than 50 donor countries, of which Canada is one, working to eliminate malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Replenishment of monies to the Global Fund is required every three years so that implementing countries have the time and guarantee of funding to plan effectively. Not only has Canada stepped in with a \$785 million donation but we are hosting the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in Montreal in September—and the world will come.

When Barack Obama said the world could use more Canada, this is part of what he meant. Bravo Canada.

Paulie Duhaime, Calgary

Crosswalk Od(d)yssey

Dear Editor:

When will our laws governing crosswalks be changed? It is insane that we allow motor vehicles to legally blow through crosswalks that are occupied by pedestrians! Who was the nitwit that drafted our crosswalk laws in the first place?

In practically every other jurisdiction in the world, a crosswalk is meant to offer safe passage for human beings to cross busy roads. In other words, motor vehicles in each and every lane occupied by the crosswalk are forced to stop and allow clear passage across the roadway regardless of where the person is on the crosswalk.

But not in BC! In BC, a pedestrian is only safe in the actual lane they occupy. Every other lane they must enter within the crosswalk is still free travel for motor vehicles. It seems the pedestrian is supposed to negotiate each and every lane before actually occupying it and if a driver does not want to stop the

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Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick



Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick

as well. EV Tourism is a growing trend and we could use a few more of those tourists milling around those free chargers. We could advertise the entire Southern Gulf Islands as an EV friendly destination.

For a start, can we share our expertise with Gabriola, the Penders, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna? We're here to help. To that end, I am hoping that there are one or two motivated individuals on each of the above islands who are interested in

Island Tides

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Voluntary Subscriptions help keep all this great news coming!

If you have been receiving *Island Tides* in your mailbox this year, or have been picking it up at a yellow box or rack located from Victoria to Campbell River, or if you read *Island Tides* online, you can show your support with a voluntary subscription of \$30 (includes gst) or an amount of your choice.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

We have a fun opportunity for voluntary subscribers:

'double your sub' to \$60, and ask for your very own *Island Tides* T-shirt! (S, M, L or X-L) while supplies last.



IT'S LATE - BUT NOT TOO LATE!

Readers' annual voluntary subscriptions are very much needed to keep us going! Our special thanks to readers who have already sent in this year.

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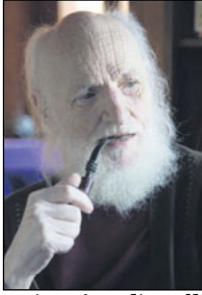
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**Charles Edward (Ted) Reeve, M.D.,
C.M., F.R.C.P. (C) 1936 - 2016**

Born February 10, 1936, in Stettler, AB.
Died August 1, 2016, in Nanaimo, BC



A graduate of Bishop's and McGill Universities, Ted belonged to British Columbia's first organ transplant team and directed the province's kidney transplant programme from 1968 to 1987. His work in nephrology and transplantation led him to related research in immunology, haematology, and genetics, always centred on his patients' quality of life.

When administrative and philosophical changes moved medicine and academia away from his ideals, he looked for a new career. He and his wife Phyllis acquired Page's Resort & Marina on Gabriola Island, where he became as dedicated to the island community as he had been to his medical practice.

Ted and Phyllis married in 1958 and raised and inspired five children: Dorothy (Jacques), Charles (Amy), Gloria (Ken), Elizabeth, and Henry (Tiffani). His beloved family also includes grandchildren Christopher, Amandine, Nicolas, Stephanie, Michelle, Lioba, and Charlie, as well as niece Helen (Bruce) and nephews Michael (Noelle), and Daniel (Kat). His sister Helen, brother Norman, and parents Charles and Dorothy predeceased him. He was blessed with numerous cherished friends.

The family thanks Dr Francois Bosman for his sympathetic guidance through Ted's years of living with Hepatitis C. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Gabriola Medical Clinic or the Gabriola Ambulance Society would be appreciated.

A service will be held at Gabriola United Church on Monday, August 8, 2016, at 1:30pm, followed by a brief interment ceremony at the Gabriola Community Cemetery and reception at Page's Resort and Marina.

**Health Care in
Ghana: II**
Peter Easthope

The recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease didn't strike Ghana, but the first poster seen by arrivals at the Kotoka airport emphasizes vigilance against Ebola. Ghana does require proof of yellow fever vaccination before a visa is issued. A public health officer rechecks the yellow fever vaccination even before a customs officer checks passport and visa. The threat of epidemic isn't taken lightly in Ghana.

In a Ghanaian hospital, the family is as involved as the nurses in patient care. Typically, a hospital has no food service and the family brings food for the patient. When a pharmaceutical is prescribed, a family member purchases it from the hospital pharmacy and takes it to the ward to be administered.

Mount Olives Hospital, Techiman, 5am, morning twilight: anxious parents bring their febrile and dehydrated four-year-old son. The father carries him. The boy has been sick with malaria for several days. Symptoms similar to influenza; nausea and diarrhea. Intravenous infusion with an anti-parasitic is started. Still, he is losing the battle. Physiological shock begins and about 7am he draws his last breath. The body is wrapped in a shroud and taken home by the anguished parents.

At 7pm, our team members, Karen and Denise, are sorting books in the small library upstairs; disdraught screams from a woman descending the ramp from the wards to the main floor. Her son has just died from malaria. The second death in one day. Karen and Denise dash downstairs to help the father. Thankfully, this isn't typical. Some days there are no deaths.

Karen asks the head nurse whether he has ever had malaria: Yes, once or twice a year. He recognizes the symptoms and begins a medication immediately. With prompt response, a healthy adult usually overcomes the disease without serious difficulty. A child is more vulnerable. But if a family doesn't have a vehicle, a ten kilometer trip can be an obstacle to health care. Financial cost can also be a deterrent. While the infection goes untreated, the parasite population increases and the condition



Undersea jewels.

of the victim deteriorates.

An accident victim with head and pelvis injuries is brought to the hospital by his family. The X-ray facility at Mount Olives is still an empty building and the patient must be taken to Holy Family Hospital for an X-ray. An hour later the agonized patient returns with the image. In BC, he would be flown to VGH but Accra is over 300km from Techiman. Too distant by road and too costly for this patient. He will be moved to the Wenchi Methodist Hospital about 35 minutes away. There, one dedicated orthopaedic surgeon and better orthopaedic facilities offer the hope of a better outcome. Nevertheless, the man will suffer lifelong disability.

Many compromises in Ghana were overcome decades ago in Canadian health care systems. ☞

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pedestrian is supposed to wait till the lane is clear. And then repeat this insanity for every other lane in our two, four and six lane roadways.

Hence the ongoing mayhem occurring between pedestrians, crosswalks and drivers. This insanity must stop now and it requires each and every concerned citizen to make their politicians aware of the carnage and its core cause.

William Clegg, Gabriola Island

Shrimp Trawling

The following letter was sent to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Dominic LeBlanc.

Dear Sir:

May I insist that you do not have the legal or moral right to continue issuing annual shrimp licences, or to allow the existing licences to fish for shrimp in British Columbia in 2016. The opening and closing of the fishery, and the very issuance of these annual licences to fish shrimp, are entirely under your personal discretion as Minister.

The Fraser River eulachon fish are on the precipice of extinction. This key species is of central cultural importance to the Coast Salish First Nations of British Columbia and to the 'forage fish' multi-billion dollar economy/ecology of British Columbia. Thousands of people, and thousands of species, are now being severely affected as this species is being allowed, by your lack of action on this matter, to decline to economic, social, and finally biological, extinction.

In my view you are favouring a few vessel fishermen who have only an annual right to fish. And recently you have allowed

even larger vessels to enter the bottom trawl shrimp fishery, and so to expand the proven detrimental effects of that fishery on the declining Fraser eulachon. Although only 10% of the shrimp trawlers have 'observers' and a Prince Rupert conference noted that 'Mandatory use of bycatch reduction devices in BC have been in place since 2000 but their effectiveness at reducing eulachon bycatch must be thoroughly tested.

'Research also should examine collateral damage—the possible mortality due to encounters with nets, not just those fish landed. Smaller fish such as herring and eulachon may suffer from exhaustion and/or scale and skin damage resulting in their mortality, regardless of actual capture'.

Honourable Minister, may I insist that no amount of shrimp-trawl bycatch mortality is acceptable from shrimp trawling due to the currently fragile state of eulachon stocks.

Extinction is forever. Canada cannot afford to lose major economic assets such as the eulachon fish.

I ask you to now meet with the Coast Salish families and let them explain to you the place in their culture for 'Swi:we', the eulachon. And I ask that you meet with MLA Andrew Weaver, who has researched the huge social, ecological and economic significance of this species as a key forage fish in the Salish Sea and Fraser River ecosystems.

David Ellis, Vancouver ☞

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School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

**INVITATION TO TENDER
Water Transportation Service**

Sealed tenders will be received no later than August 24, 2016, 2:00 p.m. local time, at the School District No. 64 School Board Office for "Water Transportation Service", providing student transportation for the Gulf Islands.

Documents for the tender for "Water Transport Service" will be available to contractors from the School Board Office commencing August 15, 2016.

The contract may be a one-year contract or a multi-year contract not to exceed three (3) years.

Tenders will be opened immediately after closing time. The content of Tenders will not generally be made public, except at the discretion of the school district.

The school district reserves the right to reject any or all tenders received.

**Contact: Rod Scotvold, Secretary Treasurer
School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
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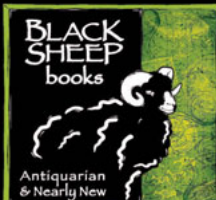

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Photo: Toby Snelgrove, SNELGROVEimages.com

Hanging out over the cliffs just south of Seymour Narrows and north of Campbell River. Would you hang out here?

Weaving a web for Living - Jan Slakov

With the July 22 death of Ursula Franklin, pacifist and feminist—a woman whose example and thinking were precious, even prophetic, for me and many others—I feel a need to somehow carry on her spirit, knitting together some strands laid down by Ursula and others, hopefully strengthening our web of engagement towards a better world.

Having escaped the Holocaust with her life, Ursula knew war and evil first hand. This impacted her understanding of our present struggles: ‘...every war needs an enemy... the new enemy is us—people: not a people identifiable by any one passport, but ordinary people, and their institutions, who stand in the way of a takeover by the global marketeers.

‘The goal of the new war is control of the commons and the strategy is privatization. In the most brutal terms it entails providing and opening up investment opportunities in all the areas that people had previously set aside as commons: publishing, culture, healthcare, prisons, education...’

In my picture of what is going on, we are being occupied by the marketeers, just as the French and Norwegians were occupied by the Germans during the Second World War. We have, as they did, puppet governments who run the country for the benefit of the occupiers.’

After World War II, Ursula and her husband became pacifists. I’m sure she would agree with another thinker who challenges us to transform our world, Salt Spring’s Ron Wright. After interviewing Wright, journalist Silver Donald Cameron described Wright’s notion of a progress trap: it’s ‘an idea or a technology that generates splendid results at first, but leads to a deadly, impossible end. Take weapons, for instance. At the outset, improved weapons meant a better food supply and a major advantage in conflicts with other humans. The flint arrow, the bronze knife, the long-bow, the rifle. But with the new weapons we hunted game and animals to extinction—and the end result of progress in weaponry is the hydrogen bomb.’

Of course, it’s not just weapons of mass destruction that threaten life now; it’s also the

ecological consequences of the way most humans interact with the natural world and each other.

Could this situation propel us to transform our ways of thinking and living? Naomi Klein hopes so: ‘Climate change acts as an accelerant to many of our social ills—inequality, wars, racism—but it can also be an accelerant for the opposite, for the forces working for economic and social justice and against militarism.’ Wright and Klein’s words echo those of another transformative thinker, Rachel Carson, who saw that ‘we’re challenged as mankind has never been challenged before, to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves.’

At times I feel that maybe we are making headway on this task. In 2015, we saw serious efforts to overcome our dysfunctional electoral system to ensure the Harper Conservatives would not be returned to power. I’m not thinking so much about strategic voting campaigns as about some of the art, especially songs, that emerged. Justin Trudeau was able, I believe, to pick up on some of the key notions of transformative change, embodying an openness, a commitment to making decisions based on science, to returning to evidence-based decision making, not decision-based evidence making.

Yes, his government has let us down in some important ways already. But the stakes are too high for people to give up. Cynicism has no place when we understand what Naomi Klein is saying: ‘...the climate crisis by presenting our species with an existential threat and putting us on a firm and unyielding science-based deadline—might just be the catalyst we need to knit together a great many powerful movements, bound together by a belief in the inherent value of all people and united by a rejection of the sacrifice zone mentality, whether it applies to peoples or places. We face so many overlapping and intersecting crises that we can’t afford to fix them one at a time. We need integrated solutions, solutions that radically bring down emissions, while creating huge numbers of good, unionised jobs and delivering meaningful justice to those who have been most abused and excluded

under the current extractive economy.’

The new federal government has been holding a huge number of consultations, on issues ranging from the future of the post office to defence policy, though not well publicized. I am also sure these consultations will not bring about the changes we need. As Klein argues, we can’t make real progress tackling our problems one at a time. Thankfully, we already have some great ‘maps’ for where we need to go, such as the vision laid out in the Leap Manifesto.

What we really need is a vehicle to travel these routes. This is a work in progress; I’m not sure how best to get that vehicle on the road. But from my vantage point here, I see Elizabeth May as someone who ‘gets it’. She sees her mission as rescuing democracy from politics. Her challenge, that ‘we will accomplish the impossible because it’s simply not acceptable to allow ourselves to accept only those things that seem possible’ has drawn a diverse and lively bunch of people together to assist her and the current Green Party. I do know, however, it would be dangerous to count on one person or one party to provide the leadership we need. We need strong civil society groups, we need a culture of trans-partisanship.

I am reminded again of the power of our ways of thinking. One of Ursula Franklin’s dearest friends, Bruna Nota, once shared an image she finds useful. She sees her efforts like a strand in a huge spider’s web of transformative change. No one person could weave that whole web, but when we treasure the other strands, and allow ourselves to feel the strength of being part of the larger web, we can devote ourselves more fully to maintaining the part of the web we are able to maintain.

Let’s hope that our web will be strong enough to act as a safety net, to catch lives and life systems as we move forward into a perilous future. ☞

Jan Slakov, board member of Conscience Canada, is active in the movement for peace, justice and sustainability.

LIBRARIES, from page 1

the sole paid staff member providing library services within the Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna and Piers library system. She is supported in her part-time position by 130 volunteers who are responsible for keeping the doors open and the five libraries operational.

Volunteer duties are incredibly diverse on these islands: all the usual, plus applying for grants, installing shelves, replacing carpets and much more. ‘Living on the islands has made us all very resourceful

and appreciative of each other,’ she says.

As on Salt Spring, a great deal of library funding comes from the local community. ‘The Legion, the Lions Club, community service societies, private businesses and generous individuals—these are just some of many who contribute,’ says Oleskevich. ‘Were it not for these donations our budget would be limited to the set amount we receive under the CRD funding formula.’

Oleskevich indicates Pender Island Library, where she is located, has no problem attracting

volunteers. ‘There are many retired professionals as well as others with lots of experience and a wide range of skills and knowledge. We are now able to have at least two people on every shift.’

‘As far as I know, the library systems in this area of the province are the only ones that rely so heavily on volunteer help for day-to-day library services and operations. The islands are quite unique in this regard. Without volunteers we would have to shut our doors tomorrow.’ ☞



Photo: Christa Grace-Warrick

Bob Bruce (pictured) and Ocean River's new kayaking venture on Saturna Island.

Saturna Notes -Priscilla Ewbank

The island's orchard boughs are starting to weigh heavy—what a crop this year! Sliced transparent apples are filling up the first pie shells mixed in with blackberries—yum! We have glorious voluptuous figs—two trees full. Above all things, the sheep love figs, fig leaves and fig boughs. I laugh to see dirty woolly sheep pirouetting on their stubby little legs, lurching and launching into the air for fig leaves.

Summer Kids

It is so wonderful to see lots of kids on the island—visitors and island families' kids. Many of us wonder, as we raise our families on the islands, what it will be like as they grow and leave home, taking those solo steps. Home is empty for a while as kids launch from homebase. Will they come back? Can they come back and live their young lives, employed and living their best selves?

And then grandparenting starts. If you are lucky like me, you get them for four to five weeks in summer while their parents work. Long-empty kid bedrooms are reborn and refurbished; transitioning again through the needs of babies, kids and teenagers.

For these children who homebase on the islands every summer, this is a second home. Kids are welcome in many island homes and local businesses and greeted with 'How you have grown!'

We grandmas, nanas, and grannies try to get their visits timed to coincide; so kick-the-can and other raucous sports are easily done together.

Many fascinating conversations take place with the kids of our kids. 'Yup, that is chicken poo.' 'Whoa!' 'Stinks, huh? It will wash off your hands, you can scrape it off your new runners. No, the chicken bucket goes over the fence so that the chickens can get to the food.'

We go out at night and walk about, moving sprinklers, shutting in the chickens, herding bad sheep back to where they belong, setting mousetraps, sauntering in the moonlit nights listening for nighthawks, seeing the bats... In these warm days and nights, the doors are wide open and sometimes bats swirl through. Last year that was scary, this year it sparked a lively conversation about why they would come in when the bugs are outside, and where do they sleep? What was impossible for them last year becomes possible this year.

Each summer seems to have a theme. We have so much fun by ourselves! And we sing the no homework song loudly! I am firm in my resistance to grandkids working away from the farm. And press my hopes that paid work not interfere with our summer together! So far so good, though the time will come, I know, when they too need to launch and I will be fully supportive.

Mayne Island Picnic

I was blown away by Mayne Island's welcoming gesture to local Syrian refugee families. Mayne Islanders did what they said they would and were capable of. Last year, when we were all talking about could we, would we, take on the responsibility of sponsoring a refugee family, Mayne did not chose to sponsor a family. But, between raising money for ESL classes and the picnic, they provided a model for small communities which

really don't have the resources or the type of community that can take a family on.

We are summer holiday communities. We are geared up! I was there and cried a bit—such happiness. I was reminded of how lucky we are and how much we *do* have to offer. When something works, and is full of engagement and sparkle—we humans know it. Great appreciation to Mayne Island for this effort of loving kindness and fun!



Photo: Priscilla Ewbank

Haggis Farm's burgeoning orchards.

much more are recorded for us to see each other; in the moment and to check back through archives to see how we have evolved.

We have collectively made huge changes—in landuse, ferry scheduling, environmental issues, new economy, community infrastructure, First Nations rights (with Grace Point and the Unist'ot'en Camp) because we can communicate with each other thanks to Christa's devoted efforts.

We are also well-represented to the outer world regionally (and to ourselves) as a can-do, thoughtful population. We are alert to national issues, and smaller coastal issues. Largely by the efforts of this paper do we know ourselves and our power.

Over the years, Christa has brought us into the digital age with the newspaper online and archived, and now innovatively adding video, blog and twitter. The paper provides a venue for our fine local photographers' fabulous coastal photos, and room for letter writers to bring issues of concern forward. Many, many local writers have the opportunity to portray our lives in words; yet another way to enrich our coastal lives.

If you haven't contributed for 2016 'in January, February, June or July'—now is high time! Right now! Donate or do a voluntary subscription. Mail a cheque, email a payment, call with a credit card.

Some of you, who have previously been voluntary subscribers and donators, will have just got a reminder letter in the post (fingers crossed) or by email. In turn, can you remind others, please? In this letter Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May wrote, 'Canada's mainstream media is corporate and centralized. But we on Vancouver Island and its coastal islands—from Quadra to Saturna—have a voice that brings us real news. I attribute a great deal of the social cohesion, activism, and high degree of public awareness in our area to *Island Tides*. I will donate. I hope you will too.'

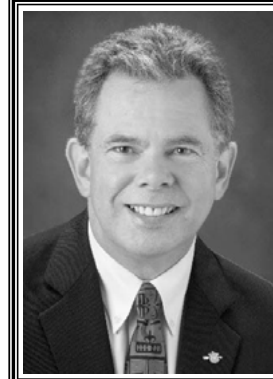
There is only strength in numbers—if all readers contributed early in the year, all the worry would be over each year and Christa could concentrate on the news. Seize the moment to get money to this newspaper or lose it and all the systems that have built, over the years, the web of connections on the coast to such good effect. ☺

Contributing To Island Tides

This is an all out call for money to support *Island Tides*! Our coastal networker, our instrument of communication up and down the inner coast, needs our care and devotion.

Christa, our editor and owner, put together the project and has a 27-year record of supporting our interconnectedness.

Our businesses, our farming and fishing, creating our homes, transportation, our school, tourist businesses, flora and fauna, community efforts, our aspirations and dreams, and our successes, these and so



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June 10 to September 18

ArtCraft—Fine arts and crafts at BC's longest running show: ceramics, fibre arts, basketry, painting, jewelry, wood accessories, decorative and functional; The Best of the Gulf Islands in downtown Ganges • Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road • Open 7 days a week, 10am-5pm • Info: 250.537.0899, www.ssartscouncil.com • SALT SPRING



Thursday to Saturday, August 8, 10, 11, 12, 13

Fin De Fiesta Flamenco—Stunning international flamenco music and dance ensemble brings Spanish fire to Gulf Island tour stops; **MON, AUG 8:** Duncan Showroom; **WED, AUG 10:** Galiano South End Hall; **THURS, AUG 11:** Mayne, Agricultural Hall; **FRI, AUG 12:** Salt Spring, Fulford Hall; **SAT, AUG 13:** Pender Island Community Hall • Doors: 7:00pm; performances: 7:30pm • Tickets: \$25/\$22/\$15 • Tickets and info: www.findefiestafamenco.com • DUNCAN, GALIANO, MAYNE, SALT SPRING, PENDER

Friday, August 12

Trio Brio—Gallery viewing: Eve Pollard, Margaret Alpen, Derek Applegarth • Sea Star Winery • Opening reception: 4-8pm • Gallery viewing on Saturday and Sunday, 11am-4pm • PENDER

Saturday & Sunday, August 13 & 14

Texada Artists Studio Tour—20+ artists exhibiting in 14 studios; meet them and see their work in painting, stitchery and fabric arts, stained and fused glass, beading, wood carving, graphic design, pottery, jewellery and beach glass • 10am-4pm • Free admission (BBQ lunch available) • Register online for a driver-escort and walk on the ferry from Powell River • Info: www.texadaart.com, 604.486.0334 • TEXADA

Saturday & Sunday, August 13 & 14

Coombs Fair—4-H displays, animal barns, horse show, arts & crafts, domestic science, needlecraft, photography, horticulture & more; blacksmithing, spinning & weaving, beekeeping and master gardening demos; live music, games, food and fun for the whole family • Coombs Fairgrounds, Ford Road, behind Coombs General Store • 8am-5pm • Tickets at gate • 250.248.4458 • Info: www.coombsfair.com • COOMBS

Saturday, August 13

SIMRES SeaTalks—Perseid Meteor Shower; video art projection on facade of the FAB, a magical event by Montreal-based artist, Allison Moore; talk about the night sky by Saturna resident and night sky expert Joan Hoskinson; Dress warm, bring blankets, chairs; refreshments served • Fog Alarm Building, East Point • 9pm • By donation • Info: www.saturnamarineresearch.ca • SATURNA

Saturday, August 13

Mark Atkinson Trio—World infused gypsy jazz with west coast vibes at the 4th Annual Stoney Pocket Music Festival; Opener: Genevieve and the Wild Sundays, folk music from an all-female band • 2220 Clam Bay Rd, parking at 2203 Port Washington Rd • Music starts 7pm • Tickets: \$20, teens \$10, under 12 free; Available at Talisman Books and Southridge Farm Store, and at the door • Info: Colin at 250.629.6608 or colinandwendie@shaw.ca; www.marcatkinson.com, www.wildsundays.ca • PENDER

Friday, August 19

Ductless Heat Pump Info Session—Learn about the efficiency, ease, and affordability of ductless heat pumps for retrofit or new construction • South End Hall • 5pm-7pm • Free • Info: 250.858.0537, ssheatandvent@gmail.com • GALIANO

Thursday, August 25

Celebration of Life—Margaret Griffiths, (September 26 1921 - April 11, 2016) Please join Margaret's family and friends for a Celebration of Life; Bring your favorite story, song or memory to share; All are welcome • The Galiano Hall • 1pm • Info: www.galianostory.com, Debbie Holmes 250.539.2803 • GALIANO

Saturday, August 27

Pender Islands Fall Fair 'Celebrating Local Food and Farms'—Parade; agricultural and rural arts exhibits; entertainment; food; beer garden • Community Hall • Market: 9:30am; Gate: 10am; Parade: 10:30am; BBQ: 5pm • Admission by donation; suggested donation \$5 • Info and catalogue: www.pifi.ca, Barb 250.629.3819 • PENDER

Saturday, August 27

Lauren Mann & the Fairly Odd Folk—Outdoor performance under the stars • Ag Hall Fair Grounds • 7:30pm start • Tickets: \$20 (Home Hardware, Happy Tides, Farm Gate) or at the gate • MAYNE

Saturday to Monday, September 3 to 5

149th Annual Saanich Fair—Western Canada's oldest continuous agricultural fair is back; Food, rides, games, performers; 5,000 square foot kid zone; pedal tractor races and a giant colouring wall • Info: SaanichFair.ca • SAANICH





Photo: Mike Yip

A female Kingfisher subdues its prey, a gunnel fish, by crunching, swinging, shaking, and slamming it before swallowing.

Special Report on BC Hydro by Arthur Caldicott: From Showcase to Basket Case

Before Gordon Campbell became premier in 2001, British Columbians were concerned that he would privatize BCHydro. The BCLiberals' New Era platform was small consolation with its promise to 'protect BCHydro and all of its core assets ... under public ownership.' Voters could 'be confident that [a Liberal] government will protect [their] interests' and would not 'play politics with BCHydro.' Sure thing.

The First Energy Plan

Campbell wasted no time carving up BCHydro, without quite breaking the New Era commitment. His first energy plan, Energy for Our Future, issued in 2002, was laid out as 26 'Actions', many of which changed BC's wild rivers, BC's energy landscape, and BCHydro forever. If he didn't completely privatize BCHydro, the effect of his policies were to destroy it as a viable economic entity.

Some Actions in the energy plan were expensive flops: plenty of money was thrown at coalbed methane and off-shore drilling. A few actions deserved praise: energy conservation and efficiencies, emission standards for coal-fired generation, and reduced greenhouse gases. At least one was a flat-out lie: 'Strengthen. . . the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC)—a promise which heralded a decade of directives and legislative changes that reduced BCUC's regulatory scope and discretion with respect to BCHydro.

Action #4: Whole departments and 1,600 employees were outsourced to Accenture in a \$1.27 billion, ten-year deal that was to save BCHydro \$250 million. At the end, Accenture had been paid \$1.8 billion, a half-billion dollar overrun. This is one of many costly overruns that BCHydro has incurred under BCLiberal energy policies.

Action #15: Transmission was carved out of BCHydro to become the new BC Transmission Corp. Eight years later and \$65 million lost in transmission, this unnecessary action was undone, and BCTC was reintegrated into BCHydro.

A single transmission project—the Northwest Transmission Line—cost at least \$716 million, compared to the \$395 million original budget. Add in three other transmission projects, and the overrun totals \$516 million.

It was in Action #13 that Campbell sabotaged BCHydro from within and cheated British Columbians: 'The private sector will develop new electricity generation, with BCHydro restricted to improvements at existing plants.' Although BCHydro had been contracting for power with independent power producers

(IPPs) since the 1980s, Action #13 would transform the role of private power so that it would dominate BCHydro's electricity costs and cripple it with debt.

By 2015, BCHydro had 105 operating projects on contract, nominally capable of 18,902 gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy, with 3,098 GWh to come from 23 IPP projects still in development. In 2015 it purchased 13,377 GWh of energy at a cost of \$1,064 million. That is 24% of BCHydro's domestic supply at 76% of its cost of power; \$79.54 per megawatt hour (MWh), compared to \$8.11 per MWh for power from BCHydro's dams. This describes the cash which is now flowing out of ratepayers' pockets through BCHydro to IPPs. The contractual commitments add up to \$54 billion over 56 years.

Revenues Don't Match Costs

These costs must be paid for in energy sales.

From 2002 to 2016, the government has continued to interfere with rates, keeping them low enough not to antagonize voters, fettering the BCUC's discretion to approve or impose rate increases sufficient to cover BCHydro's ever-mounting costs and obligations.

BCHydro's trading subsidiary, Powerex, is active in the western provinces and the western states, especially California.

During the winter of 2000-2001, deregulation in California's wholesale electricity markets exposed California to price and supply manipulation on a massive scale—as much as \$45 billion. Enron Corporation was the greatest offender, but Powerex was also implicated in price gouging, and California sued Powerex for \$3.2 billion. Howls of outrage and protestations of innocence from British Columbia couldn't make the lawsuit go away, and in 2013 the BC government agreed to a \$750 million out-of-court settlement. It was yet another unbudgeted BCHydro overrun, and a very expensive way to avoid having to demonstrate innocence.

California continues to be a reliable customer, but it shows little interest in buying more power from BC, at any price and most definitely not as eligible power under the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS). None of BC's 'clean energy' projects qualify under the RPS and the state is buying no more BC power than in previous years.

Electricity Exports Not Viable

BC's electricity exports trade mainly through the 'Mid-Columbia' (Mid-C) price hub. The Mid-C average price through

2015 was \$26.06 per MWh, and for the first six weeks in 2016 it was \$22.73. It's not a winning business proposition when the power which BCHydro is selling costs it \$79.54 per MWh.

At times in recent years, spot prices have dropped below zero, into 'negative pricing', in which a seller of energy will deliver power to the customer, and pay him to take it. This situation will occur when demand (and prices) are low, and a seller of power cannot or will not curtail generation. It will also occur when a seller of power, BCHydro in this instance, has 'take or pay' agreements with IPPs, which require it to pay the IPP the agreed-upon rate for electricity whether or not it takes delivery of the power. BCHydro finds itself with more energy than it has demand for.

In 2011, 80 instances of negative pricing were recorded in the Mid-C market. In 2012, BCHydro curtailed production at its own heritage generation facilities, spilling water instead of using it for generation, while taking all the unneeded high-priced power IPPs could churn out.

The entire BC government energy scheme rested on the flawed premise that revenues from electricity sales could match the cost of purchases. Yet government would not let domestic rates rise enough to pay for the costs incurred, and export markets have not materialized.

The Critics

From the beginning, there were critics of the BCLiberal energy plans. Some had jobs to preserve, others were concerned about public ownership and destruction of streams and habitat. Many could see the economic danger inherent in the energy plans.

Gordon Campbell maintained tight control over his caucus, and during his entire term as premier only one person broke ranks. Paul Nettleton, a former BCLiberal MLA for Prince George-Omineca, claimed in 2002 that the government had secret plans to privatize BCHydro. He was quickly removed from the government caucus.

Industrial customers of BCHydro are represented by the Association of Major Power Consumers of BC, which in 2007 was the Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee (JIESC), and before that the Council of Forest Industries. The biggest industrial users are the pulp, paper and wood products sectors, followed by mining. With the release in 2007 of the BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership, industry feared that, 'the British Columbia government's pursuit of green energy and self-sufficiency is causing the price of electricity to accelerate to a degree that could drive industry out of the province.' Dan Potts, Executive Director of JIESC, said, 'It looks

BCHYDRO, please turn to page 10

'The Mid-C average price through 2015 was \$26.06 per MWh, and for the first six weeks in 2016 was \$22.73. It's not a winning business proposition when the power which BCHydro is selling costs it \$79.54 per MWh.'

Happy to serve you and honoured to be your voice in Ottawa!

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Wildwood Ecoforest Purchased

The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) has accepted an offer from Mark Randen to purchase Wildwood Ecoforest. Randen is a local ecoforester and former longtime apprentice of Merv Wilkinson, the founder of Wildwood. The accepted agreement includes a covenant and forest management plan that will ensure that Wildwood remains a working ecoforestry operation and continues Merv Wilkinson's vision to further promote ecoforestry as a mainstream alternative to clearcutting.

Randen was a protégé of Merv's who worked closely with the ecoforestry pioneer for 12 years. Randen continues to demonstrate the principle of sustainable ecoforestry, taught by Merv, on his Gabriola Island-based ecoforestry site. Randen's management of Wildwood will heavily feature opportunities for education, visitation and the training of apprentices to pass along knowledge, skills and abilities to the next generation including First Nations students.

TLC had previously attempted to sell Wildwood Ecoforest to the Ecoforestry Institute Society (EIS). The two non-profits signed an agreement in November 2015. In December 2015, days before the scheduled court date, EIS withdrew, citing the inability to complete the deal.

CRD Launches Art Consultations

The Capital Regional District Arts Development Service has launched a public consultation and engagement process, Building Our #ArtsFuture Together, to encourage community participation in identifying priorities and actions for a CRD arts strategy. An online survey is now available at www.placespeak.com/CRDArtsFuture.

Pre-consultation sessions held in June with over 100 arts groups and individuals helped to inform the design of the public consultation. In addition to the survey, participation opportunities include Arts Community Workshops to be held in various locations across the region from September 19-24 and an Arts Champions Summit, taking place from November 3-5. Registration will open soon.



Lily talks with three chickadees.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Townhall

At a townhall held by Nanaimo-Ladysmith MP Sheila Malcolmson, residents expressed their opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

'Today I heard serious concerns that the TPP threatens Canadian jobs, will increase the cost of prescription drugs, and compromises Canada's ability to act on climate change,' said Malcolmson. 'We will take what we learned from our Nanaimo-Ladysmith community and include it in our official submission to the Minister of International Trade, and I will continue to put pressure on the Liberal government to reject the TPP.'

The NDP critic for trade, MP Tracey Ramsey, also joined the townhall, which was held at Nanaimo's White Sails Brewing.

Perils of trade agreements - D Ravi Kanth

Washington's dispute against India's localization rules for promoting solar energy has clearly exposed a hypocrisy of the American administration.

President Barack Obama has celebrated a US victory against India at the World Trade Organization (WTO). A dispute settlement panel in February upheld Washington's case against New Delhi for imposing 'localization' policies on solar power developers to use locally produced solar cells and modules. The panel pronounced that the Indian government's buy-local solar cells and modules policy discriminated against US solar exports.

'We can't have other countries cheating,' Obama said. 'We can't have other countries engaged in practices that disadvantage American workers and American businesses.'

The US has launched 109 trade disputes against other WTO members, while facing 124 disputes against its allegedly illegal trade policies. Against India, the US raised six trade disputes at the WTO while encountering eight cases from New Delhi.

'The ones that we've brought, we have won,' said Obama.

When it came to the solar dispute against India, which is an important piece of the climate solution puzzle, Obama's remarks raised eyebrows. Obama was silent about the subsidized and 'buy-local' rules implemented by nearly half the American states for promoting renewable energy and green jobs. Therefore, Washington's dispute against India's localization rules for promoting solar energy has clearly exposed the double standards and hypocrisy of the American administration. It also brought to the centre stage the stand-off between the rigged liberal rules implemented by the WTO and the developmental industrial policies for promoting renewable energy.

At the heart of the US dispute is whether India is right to impose mandatory domestic content requirements on solar power developers. The previous United Progressive Alliance government, which established the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) in 2010, sought to make India 'a global leader in solar energy by creating the policy condition for diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.'

The central goal of JNNSM is to promote ecologically sustainable growth for addressing climate change. It set a target of 20GW by 2022 which was later increased to 100GW in the 2015 Union budget of India. As part of the National Solar Mission, the Indian government would enter into long-term power purchase agreements with solar power developers by offering a guaranteed rate for a 25-year term. In return, the power developers must buy locally manufactured solar cells and modules.

The US, which has used such policies since 1800 following Alexander Hamilton's blueprint for industrialization, found fault with India's localization rules and launched a trade dispute at the WTO. Washington complained, in 2013, to the WTO that India's localization rules or local content requirements violated what are called national treatment obligations and provisions in the trade-related investment measures (TRIMS). The national treatment provisions require WTO members to treat imported products on par with the similar locally manufactured items. The TRIMS commitments call on WTO members not to apply any TRIM that

is inconsistent with national treatment. The panel concurred with the US that India's domestic content requirements fell in the category of TRIMS as they favour the use of domestic products over foreign products and therefore, impair trade.

India, however, justified the so-called TRIMS violations on the ground that international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) required such policies. India took recourse to GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) exceptions which allow WTO members to maintain measures to comply with international legal obligations such as the UNFCCC. India maintained that it owes an obligation 'to take steps to achieve energy security, mitigate climate change, and achieve sustainable development.' India also made a case under another GATT article that allows measures 'essential to the acquisition or distribution of products in general or local short supply.'

The panel rejected India's defence on all grounds. It maintained that international agreements could be considered under the stated GATT exceptions only if they had been 'incorporated or have direct effect, within a member's domestic legal system.' It pointed out that international agreements did not have effect in India. The panel also dismissed India's case by maintaining that there is no shortage of solar cells and modules for meeting demand from Indian solar power developers.

This is not the first time that WTO ruled against countries pursuing clean energy policies from a climate perspective. 'From a climate perspective, the WTO ruling is an outrage,' journalist Naomi Klein wrote in *This Changes Everything - Capitalism vs the Climate*.

During Obama's visit to New Delhi in January 2015, the US president and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized 'the critical importance of expanding clean energy research, development, manufacturing and deployment, which increases energy access and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.'

It's a different matter that nearly half of American states have renewable energy programs based on 'buy-local' rules. In fact, the Indian government has prepared a dossier of information on the American renewable energy policies based on subsidies, local content requirements, and other incentives.

Yet, a year after that grand declaration with Modi in New Delhi, Obama seemed happy over the lesson taught to India on 'cheating'. In global trade, everything is based on tit-for-tat and dollar-and-cents faceoff.

India's Modi government, which strongly believes in 'nationalist' policies while targeting the 'anti-nationals' in the complex social universe, must also prove its credentials in trade areas, like this solar dispute raised by the US.

This article appeared in Indian online news source, www.livemint.com. Thank you to a reader for pointing it out.

Did you appreciate this article? Help *Island Tides* pay for publishing it! Mail or phone in your \$30 annual subscription today: 250-216-2267. Thank You!

Transgender rights and the housing crisis

Gary Holman, MLA

The BC government just called a one-week, mid-summer session of the Legislature to deal with two important issues that should have been addressed a few weeks ago in the spring sitting of the House.

During the spring session, the Official Opposition introduced legislation that would have enshrined transgender rights in our BC human rights laws. Also presented were legislation to tax speculative investment and investigate money laundering in BC real estate.

Government's response to these proposals was dismissive at best. Attorney General Susan Anton repeated her mantra that transgender rights are already protected by law. Minister of Housing Rich Coleman characterized the Opposition's David Eby, and others concerned about the impact of speculative investment on housing prices, as 'whiners'. The Premier suggested that those unable to find affordable housing in the lower mainland could move to BC's north, where views were 'spectacular'.

What a difference continuing bad headlines (and likely some negative polling results) can make. In a few short weeks, issues previously deemed irrelevant by the premier and her ministers now demanded immediate attention and a special summer session of the BC Legislature.

Amendments to the *Human Rights Act* were simple—a matter of adding a few words. This is why the Opposition's Spencer Chandra Herbert, who year-after-year proposed such amendments, was so frustrated by government's inaction. The Premier's sudden interest in the issue was explained when she made herself available for the photo-op with trans rights advocates, but missed the actual vote in the legislature so she could attend a fundraiser for the BC Liberal Party, which tops up the Premier's \$195,000 salary by \$50,000 per year.

The tax on new foreign investors is more complex and already the flaws in this hurried, politically-motivated legislation are becoming evident—constitutional challenges and ease of evasion—because BCLiberal tax targets investor nationality rather than the investment itself.

The new tax also excludes billions in housing stock already controlled by speculative capital. The new law enables Vancouver to apply a 'vacancy' tax, but the cost and difficulty of determining vacant housing will also be downloaded. Once implemented in one municipality, the vacancy tax will simply push the problem elsewhere in BC.

Corporate Political Donations

Meanwhile, policies on key matters of public interest like housing prices, environmental regulation, energy and climate action, fair taxation, and social justice are also unduly influenced by big money. Premier Clark has repeatedly rejected Opposition proposals to ban political donations from corporations and unions, and establish limits on personal donations (both of which are in place federally), and to place government advertising—taxpayer funded—under the control of the Auditor General to ensure no partisan bias.

Reforms to diminish the role of big money in politics are the right thing to do. I will continue to oppose and reform a regressive agenda driven by big money rather than the public interest.

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What do refugees have to do with climate change? - Peter Nix



Many residents of Greek refugee camps suffer intense personal trauma beyond routine needs of food and shelter. As a result, neglected children are everywhere: infants crawl alone in tents, smeared in feces; toddlers wander onto the highway, hugging teddy bears on the centre white line; and bands of rogue boys open the car doors of startled visitors as they drive through the camp.

Scientists have warned that parts of our planet will experience mass migrations as people flee the severe environmental and economic stresses of climate change events—like people from Fort McMurray, and like these refugees.



A ten-year drought bankrupted many Syrian farmers and the resulting social unrest was one cause of the civil war. These problems will escalate if we continue to burn fossil fuels.

In a response to this flight of people, international volunteers swirl through dusty Greek refugee camps—a spontaneous and inspiring mobilization of ordinary people who want to help: British university students during summer vacation, Spanish firefighters donating holiday time, Jews from Israel, Muslims from America, and retired couples like my wife and I from the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island.

We spent three months in Greece; mostly in Ritsona, a refugee camp one hour north of Athens. At first glance, I see a human ant-hill of perplexity and confusion: good-hearted volunteers looking for meaningful work, harassed managers of charities trying to organize work, and 800 frustrated refugees who want work but must line up to get food, drinking water and showers; and of course, the many unattended children who throw themselves into your arms.

In spite of this chaos, we are greeted by refugee residents with smiles and invitations to share a meal or coffee in their meagre tents. Margaret succumbs willingly; but me, less often. After all, Arab women need time to cover their bodies before I enter their tents, my arthritic knee dislikes squatting on floors, and my stomach does not like a diet of boiled and bitter coffee. So my wife is often hidden inside a tent with Arab women, providing therapy by listening to their stories. I wander the

camp, doing odd jobs and trying to find worthwhile projects.

Every evening, I try to find Margaret, but the Arab sense of privacy means that tent flaps are closed. My plaintive cry of 'Where's Margaret?' becomes a standing joke throughout the camp. Well, laughter is a sort of therapy.

But I am uncertain... what is my role? For several weeks, I do routine work like food distribution and making ramps for the handicapped. I wonder why refugees themselves are not doing these routine jobs. Am I creating a culture of dependency, so common with many aid organizations?

Finally, I get permission from the air force colonel, who runs the camp, to create a park in an area of pine trees. From my cultural perspective, these people need a shady restful place during the

summer heat to get away from the confusion within the camp. They need picnic tables.

Quickly, before any manager of a charity takes ownership of this space, refugees and I level the ground with picks and rakes and spread gravel over the dirt. Even a 4-year old helps.

When they hear about this project, camp managers warn me that any picnic tables will be chopped up for cooking fires or stolen. Refugee tents are not heated or furnished.

Well, I recognize these possibilities; but really, you have to be pretty hard-hearted to call taking a few chairs for their own use 'stealing' or burning a few tables for heat 'vandalism' after the horrible tragedies experienced by these people.

I say let's give them a break, and more control over their lives. After all, a lot of money is spent in these camps, sometimes foolishly. So the loss of a few tables is not exactly a huge risk.

As I discuss the project with refugee friends, I learn that

many are expert carpenters. But they want furniture for their own tents, not picnic tables for a park. So instead of buying wood for tables, I buy hundreds of used wooden pallets—lumber is too expensive for my budget—and lots of saws, hammers and nails to be shared. I hire a truck and place them in a large pile in the centre of the camp.

I wait for hours, but the pallets remain untouched. The residents, accustomed to lining up for everything, are wary. Then, hesitantly, one young man asks me for three pallets so his pregnant wife can sleep above the ground. He smiles when I say 'take them and make whatever you want'. I see therapy in that.

And that broke the proverbial logjam; whole families emerge from tents and the pile of pallets disappears in five minutes. When I arrive the next day, a buzz of hammering and sawing rises up with the morning dust.

I buy more pallets. They are torn apart and recycled by resident carpenters into furniture, shelves, benches and beds. A two-story tree fort appears in a pine tree. But nobody makes a picnic table for my park.

The managers are so impressed that they order more pallets. Refugee carpenters make tables and benches for community



projects, like a woman's centre for moms and kids and a communal kitchen with a Syrian cook—no need for volunteers, and no line-ups.

Our time comes to leave for Canada. A large bearded Syrian friend playfully hugs Margaret, calls her mom, and pretends to crawl into her backpack as her baby son—some laughter, some tears.

Maybe picnic tables eventually will get built. And sure, maybe some will become firewood; but hopefully, not

before a few quiet game of cards, a meal under pine trees, and a laugh or two.

Sure, it's only a drop in the ocean. But families fleeing chaos deserve the small comfort of furniture made from pallets in otherwise stark tents.

Peter Nix, aka Cowichan Carbon Buster, has a solar farm in his backyard.



Cap-and-trade

Solutions - David Suzuki

The principle that polluters should pay for the waste they create has led many experts to urge governments to put a price on carbon emissions.

One method is the sometimes controversial cap-and-trade. Quebec, California and the European Union have already adopted cap-and-trade, and Ontario will join Quebec and California's system in January 2017. But is it a good way to address climate change?

The program sets an overall limit—a cap—on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions a province can emit. It then tells polluters, such as heavy industry and electricity generators, how many tonnes of carbon each can release. For every tonne, polluters need a permit or 'allowance'. So, if a company's annual limit is 25,000 tonnes, it would require 25,000 allowances. If a company exceeds its limit, it can purchase additional allowances from another firm that, because of its greater efficiency, has more allowances than it needs. This is the 'trade' part of the equation.

Although an individual company can exceed its greenhouse gas limit by purchasing credits, the province as a whole can't. The overall limit is reduced every year, so if the law is followed, cap-and-trade guarantees annual emissions reductions. The declining cap is the system's great strength and the way it protects the environment.

How effective is it? Although the answer isn't straightforward, there's evidence cap-and-trade played a key role in reducing acid rain in the United States. The 1990 *Clean Air Act* allowed power plants to buy and sell the right to emit sulphur dioxide. Since then, US sulphur dioxide concentrations have gone down by more than 75%. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman wrote in the *New York Times*, 'Acid rain did not disappear as a problem, but it was significantly mitigated.'

Despite this and other successes, some experts are skeptical, arguing that cap-and-trade amounts to little more than a cash grab by government, a tax in everything but name. Others say it's a mistake to expect climate change can be addressed through markets, when the problem actually requires changing our entire approach to economics, with a commitment to a steady-state economy and an end to the commodification of nature.

Some experts have also noted that the emissions reductions it brings are often modest. A 2015 paper in *Canadian Public Policy* claimed Quebec's system 'is still too weak to meaningfully address the environmental imperatives as outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2014 'Fifth Assessment Synthesis Report', in which fully eliminating carbon emissions is the benchmark for long-term policy goals.' From 2013 to 2014, California's allowance cap went from 162.8 to 159.7 megatonnes, a drop of less than 2%.

Ontario's proposed legislation indicates its program will have some great strengths and a number of shortcomings. It will likely have wide coverage, applying limits on most of the province's emissions, including those from transportation fuels. (California's system did not initially include these fuels.)

Ontario is expected to reduce emissions by over 4% a year—about twice the initial rate of California—and generate \$1.9 billion annually from the plan. That money will be invested in 'green' projects throughout the province with the goal of reducing carbon emissions even further.

Ontario's proposal to give away many allowances to big emitters is less encouraging. The government says it will eventually phase out this free disbursement, but in the meantime millions of dollars in government revenue that could be used to support renewable energy and public transit will be lost.

To keep the bulk of fossil fuels in the ground—as scientific evidence says we must—we need a variety of strategies. Cap-and-trade helps reduce emissions and generates billions of dollars for other strategies to address climate change. It also embodies the polluter pays principle. But it's not enough on its own.

The David Suzuki Foundation and others have long argued that provinces and the federal government should put a price on carbon, through carbon taxes, cap-and-trade or a combination of both. The urgent need to address global warming means provinces that have adopted cap-and-trade need to strengthen it by ensuring emissions drop faster and polluters pay a price that truly reflects the damage caused by carbon pollution.

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation Climate Change and Transportation Policy Analyst Gideon Forman.



Photo: Derek Holzapfel

A crab spider traverses the centre of a daisy.

Breaking the Peace - Elizabeth May, MP

In 1899, a treaty was entered into between indigenous groups that had been in conflict in Northeastern British Columbia. The Dunne-Za (Beaver) and Cree made peace along the banks of the Unchaga, meaning large river. The treaty is known to this day as Treaty 8. In honour of the peace achieved that day, the river was renamed the Peace River.

I learned that early history on July 9 at the annual Paddle for the Peace. I met and visited with Ken and Arlene Boon and other farm families who are refusing to leave their land. I met with West Moberly First Nation Chief Roland Wilson. It was very clear that keeping the Peace meant more than stopping Site C. It is about keeping promises and commitments. Treaty commitments from 1899 and election promises from 2015.

The decision by the federal government in late July, just ahead of the long BC weekend, to grant the permits demanded by BChydro for the Site C dam was a body blow. While building the dam is a provincial project, it cannot proceed without a set of permits from the Minister of Fisheries under the *Fisheries Act* and from the Minister of Transport under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. Even though Bill C45 (the fall 2012 omnibus budget bill) eviscerated the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, removing over 98% of Canada's internal waters, the Peace River remained one of the very few still listed. The first round of permits were issued by the previous government in the midst of the election campaign, in the last two weeks of September 2015.

This was shocking for two reasons. Firstly, governments in election campaigns are supposed to be restricted to caretaking activities. Permitting a monstrous mega-dam was more than caretaking. Secondly, the federal-provincial environmental review, conducted under the pre-C-38 legitimate process, had been highly critical of the project. It had called for the BC Public Utilities Commission to study the demand forecasts and assess the economic viability of the project. It had found significant environmental damage would occur and that Treaty 8 rights would be permanently violated.

The previous federal government met secretly in cabinet. Without regard to the evidence before them, the Harper Cabinet approved the project, finding its economic advantages outweighed the abuse of the environment and First Nations rights. Whatever advice the federal civil service provided the previous Cabinet is not only secret to the public, it was also not available to the new Cabinet of Justin Trudeau.

The efforts to ensure that the new government fully appreciated the imperative to revisit the previous government's decision were significant. Harry Swain, respected former deputy minister in the federal government and chair of the federal-provincial review panel, went public with his concerns. The Royal Society of Canada, Canada's leading national scientific academy, wrote directly to the prime minister to urge that the new government live up to its commitment to make decisions based on evidence. Hundreds of scientists reached out directly to the new Liberal government to state clearly that there was not a scientific, evidence-based foundation for a decision to issue permits.

Three major commitments of Justin Trudeau's letters of mandate are now violated—the commitment to listen to science, to evidence-based decision making and to a respectful nation to nation relationship with indigenous peoples.

Two questions remain: How did this happen? How do we stop Site C now?

How did it happen? I am devastated that the new government is perpetuating an outrageous decision of the Harper Cabinet. They have made an enormous error. The error was in characterizing giving permits to allow the dam to be built as a mere technicality based on the fact the Harper Cabinet had approved the dam. This was a new decision. This is now the Liberal government's decision. And even though Justin Trudeau has returned to Cabinet government, this will not be understood as the independent decisions of Dominic LeBlanc and Marc Garneau. As much as I do believe Trudeau was sincere in his promise, this will be seen as Justin Trudeau personally making a mockery of his commitment to First Nations rights. As Grand Chief Stewart Philip said, 'It is a complete betrayal.' Intentional or unintentional—it is a betrayal.

And we must stop the destruction of the Peace. We must stop Site C. We must, as British Columbians, deny our Premier's desire to get a bad, economically and environmentally disastrous mega-project past 'the point of no return'.

Treaty 8 First Nations are in court next month. It is now a race between justice and the bulldozers. Help fight Site C by donating to raventrust.com to support Treaty 8 in its court case. And let our new federal government know how wrong they were to issue those permits.



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Photo: Bob Estey

A summer evening game of bocce ball on Saturna Island.

A Glass of Water - Brian Crumblehulme

At this time of year we are frequently reminded about water—its quality, where it comes from and what we do with it. Some islands have a relatively high rainfall and a sufficient catchment area, and some are seasonally arid. Water management has become high priority, with the Islands Trust advocating for water plans on each island and many regional districts imposing tighter controls.

The technology for low-use in showers, toilets, and doing laundry has been around for years, but less so with water reclamation. Approved composting toilets are permitted in most areas (excepting perhaps in high density suburbs) but these usually still require a traditional septic treatment system for greywater from laundry, showers and so on. In fact, the Capital Regional District website states that the 'reclamation of greywater for reuse and recycling should be part of the long-term water conservation strategy for the CRD.' But, 'the Ministry of Health is not in favour of greywater reuse for homeowners because of health concerns.' The question then becomes, so how can we treat potentially contaminated freshwater to render it safe?

For decades now, there have been DIY home designs for 'filtering' greywater for irrigation and occasionally for potable use. The basic principle is a pipe leading to a tank filled with peat moss or similar medium that acts as a slow filter. And although not permitted, I am quite sure there are more than a few around the islands.

Plus, for a price, there are now a number of hightech devices with pressure filters, membranes and so on that are capable of producing effectively distilled water. Greywater treatment is an established industry in Europe and elsewhere and for \$8,000 or so, you can buy a large plastic container complete with pipe fittings, instructions and a guarantee. Eco-pure Peat Moss Biofilter is one such and the GRAF Wastewater Treatment: Peat Septic Filters (established 1978) is a Finnish model.

What I find curious is that these and many others call their inventions 'filters' that operate much like your coffee-filter. The passive filtration of greywater, however, does not make it safe because of bacteria, fungal spores and viruses which are very small and hard to filter out.

An investigation led me to the Greywater, Composting,

Communal Systems, and Other Options: Maine Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, which does approve domestic greywater recycling for flushing toilets and irrigation and this in turn directed me to InspectAPedia, a free encyclopedia of Building & Environmental Inspection. Who would have guessed?

The InspectAPedia assesses commercially made water treatment devices for blackwater and/or greywater. Referring to manufactured models such as Eco-Pure and GRAF, they comment that the peat systems effectively remove solids and '... peat is also good at removing excess nitrogen from septic effluent, they're not quite sure how it works.' Hmm... now we are conflating solid particles, infectious micro-organisms and dissolved chemicals. They then suggest that this may be '...possibly due to fungi or certain bacteria found in peat.' Well I guess so since that is the only option in the box!

In another corner of the universe, the Alliance of Crop Soil and Environmental Science Societies published an article in April, 2016, entitled *Denitrifying Bioreactors*, by Will Cushman. In brief, Cushman describes the re-invention of an age-old device for cleaning water: filter it through a living medium, in this case woodchips. In essence, to remove agricultural chemical contamination from farm run-off, dig a trench across the back 40, line it with black poly and fill with woodchips. As Cushman candidly says, 'Don't be fooled by the high-tech name; bioreactors are rather humble, low-tech instruments. Essentially, they are buried trenches filled with woodchips. That's it. The secret to their denitrifying power lies in bacteria that sustain themselves on the woodchips and respire nitrogen. In so doing, these bacteria are able to convert nitrates into nitrogen gas, effectively removing the nitrates from agricultural runoff when the bioreactors are connected to agricultural drainage systems.'

Herein lies the difference. What many businesses and people refer to vaguely as a 'filter' is in reality a 'bioreactor', a microbial digester that thrives on the contaminant that flows through its home. Which is also why the Shaw Peat technical manual insists you do not use garden peat in a homemade system because the peat is sterile and treated to rot quickly.

In 1965, if someone said to the average person, 'You know in thirty years you are going to buy water in plastic bottles and pay more for water than for gasoline?' Everyone would look at you like you're completely out of your mind. —Paul Watson

For contaminant removal at many levels, microbes are coming into their own. The BP Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico dumped 2.5 million barrels of heavy crude into the sea and onto the beaches. Chemical and mechanical clean-up efforts were relatively ineffective but naturally occurring seawater bacteria did break down the toxic mess.

Environmental microbiologists recently 'identified bacteria that degraded each of these compounds, and were surprised to find that many different bacteria fed on aromatic hydrocarbons, even though these are much harder to breakdown. Some of these bacteria, such as Colwellia, had already been identified as factors in the degradation of oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill, but we also found many new ones... Taken together, our results indicated that many different bacteria may act together as a community to degrade complex oil mixtures.' (Nina Dombrowski PhD, Brett J. Baker, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, U Texas at Austin)

Also in Texas, Envirogen Technologies received a \$19 million contract to clean-up a drinking water aquifer contaminated with perchlorates by using two steel boxes filled with a secret medium and inoculated with a 'perchlorate-eating bacteria'. (Let me see you drink your glass first.)

Biolan, meanwhile, will sell you an appropriately coloured Greywater Filter sized for your house and approved across Europe. They did not disclose the medium they use but under the maintenance section they say 'empty the filter material onto a compost heap or scatter it in a field', implying that it too is a natural material such as peatmoss or woodchips.

Which brings to mind *The Magic of Mushrooms* which I wrote last year on the beneficial use of fungi to clean up terrestrial oil and chemical spills, see www.islandtides.com/assets/reprint/food_20150528.pdf.

All of this begs the question: if we feel the need to clean up water, why not keep it clean in the first place? I leave the last line to the CRD Water Advisory Committee. 'Recycling Water: is a Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century'. Which leaves us only 84 years to get our act together. ☺

BCHYDRO, from page 6

... very depressing for some of our electric power intensive businesses. If you double their power costs ... they are no longer competitive. They are out of business. We have three of those [pulp] mills in BC [and] a similar ... situation with ... newsprint. The only question is who is going to shut down next?

There's No Getting Around The Debt

The BCLiberal government sent BCHydro on more than a decade of spending beyond its means, entering electricity purchase agreements it couldn't pay for, and being unable to obtain the revenues it needed to meet its spending obligations. It was only following orders. A private company would have been bankrupt, and have liquidated its assets. Crown corporations have taxpayers to keep them afloat.

Government created a mechanism to delay the inevitable—deferral accounts, or regulatory accounts by which BCHydro could shift costs out of its current operating books, to be cleared at some point in the future when electricity rates would be increased. Two Orders in Council were made effective April 1, 2004, in which the BCUC was directed to allow BCHydro and BC Transmission Corp to create the first of the deferral accounts.

The financial damage to BCHydro and to the BC economy is laid out with painful clarity in BCHydro's 2015 Annual Report. Deferral accounts total \$5.433 billion; longterm debt \$16.896 billion; longterm energy purchase commitments \$53.817 billion. That adds up to \$76 billion.

We won't even get into the \$8.335 billion Site C hydroelectric dam in this article except to note that it has its own deferral account with \$441 million in it already.

BCHydro needs a series of significant rate increases to repair this economic disaster. But fearing the electoral consequences, and ignoring the economic consequences, Premier Christy Clark has put a lid on rate increases until well after the 2017 election, allowing 9% in fiscal 2015, then dropping to 6%, with subsequent caps of 4, 3.5, and 3%.

In the meantime, as continuous as the stream flows that produce it, expensive IPP electricity flows into BCHydro, and unrecovered cash flows out.

This article was first published in Watershed Sentinel, bimonthly environmental news magazine. See it and more at: <http://www.watershedsentinel.ca/content/how-bc-hydro-wound-76-billion-debt#sthash.OIcMLLHk.dpuf>. ☺

Photo: Mike Yip



You've heard of the Spirit Bear and Spirit Raven - now there's a Spirit Hummingbird! This albino or leucistic hummingbird was seen in Qualicum Beach. To the novice observer it may seem like a new species, but experienced birders don't rely just on colour. The short, straight bill, length of the wingtips, and shape of the tail feathers suggest that it is an Anna's Hummingbird.

Commissioners for the inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women

Five commissioners for the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women were announced by the federal government, which has committed \$53.86 million over two years to undertake the inquiry. The commissioners are below:

Marion Buller

Marion Buller, who will be chief commissioner of the inquiry, is a provincial court judge in British Columbia and a member of the Mistawasis First Nation in Saskatchewan. She was appointed the first female First Nations judge in BC in 1994. Prior to this, Buller worked as a civil and criminal lawyer. She has served as both director and president of Canada's Indigenous Bar Association and has been a member of the BC Police Commission and Law Court Education Society. She was the Commission Counsel for the Caribou-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry and published reports and articles dealing with Aboriginal rights and legal services for First Nations in British Columbia. Judge Buller was instrumental in starting the First Nations Court of British Columbia in 2006.

Michèle Audette

Michèle Audette is the former President of the Quebec Native Women's Association and is a member of the Innu First Nation in Quebec. She was born to a French father and Innu mother in the Innu community of Mani Utenam in Quebec. She is a native long-time speaker of the Innu language.

Audette was elected as the youngest-ever president of the Quebec Native Women's Association, where she advocated actively to support women's issues. She also served as Deputy Minister at the Provincial Secretariat of the Status of Women in Quebec from 2004 to 2009. She was the 2012 recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Qajaq Robinson

Qajaq Robinson is currently an associate with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Ottawa, where she works on a multi-disciplinary team of 70 lawyers who do a variety of work for First Nation communities. She was born in Iqaluit and raised in Igloolik, both in Nunavut, and is a fluent

speaker in Inuktitut and English. She is a graduate of the Akitsiraq Law Program, a partnership between the University of Victoria and the Nunavut Arctic College, and worked as a Crown prosecutor in the circuit court in Nunavut for four years.

Robinson is also the vice president of Tungasuvvingat Inuit, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing cultural and wellness programs to Inuit in Ottawa.

Marilyn Poitras

Marilyn Poitras is an assistant professor in the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Her expertise is centered around constitutional and Aboriginal law and she was formerly a Native Court Worker. She has also developed a number of legal education initiatives, including the precursor to the Akitsiraq Law School in Nunavut, where she has been a professor, and the Indigenous People's Resource Management Program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Poitras has worked in private practice and has litigated in every level of court in Canada. She has significant experience in the development of self government with the Beaufort Delta Agreement, treaty implementation with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Treaty Table Justice Portfolio as well as the revisions to the Saskatchewan Métis Election Process. She is also the film producer of *7 Minutes*, a film about an Indigenous woman from Saskatchewan who was stalked and chased.

Brian Eyolfson

Brian Eyolfson is currently acting as the deputy director in the legal services branch of the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1994 and has served as Senior Staff Lawyer with Aboriginal Legal Services in Toronto and as Counsel to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He was Counsel to Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto at the Ipperwash Inquiry, and practiced human rights, Aboriginal and administrative law before a variety of tribunals and courts. He is a Vice Chair with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, where he adjudicated and mediated human rights applications from 2007 to 2016.

News Digest

Postal Workers Rally & Plan

Though negotiations are still in progress between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), the union organized a rally on August 6 at Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's constituency office in Montreal as well as at other locations across Canada.

Postal workers are calling for better pensions, pay equity and a 'sustainable public postal service'. According to CUPW National President, Mike Palecek, 'Canada Post management is moving in the opposite direction at negotiations.' On the eve of the rallies, according to the union, they are already planning their 'next move'.

The union says, 'We are proposing the same things that the Liberals said were important during the election campaign. The Government must tell Canada Post management to negotiate these issues that are important to us and all Canadians.'

One Year of Site C Construction

Construction on the Site C dam in the Peace River Valley has made it to its one-year anniversary, despite widespread opposition to the project and several court cases currently in progress. So far, roughly 2.5 million cubic metres of material has been excavated and relocated on the north bank of the dam site—enough material to fill 1,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. More than 900 hectares of land has been cleared of trees—that's around 850 baseball diamonds. More than 65,000 cubic metres of lumber has been cleared away from the site and shipped to local mills. Construction of a 329-metre bridge linking the north and south banks was completed in March. So far, BCHydro has signed contracts and made financial commitments worth over \$4 billion.

The Site C dam was just granted permits by the federal government for construction. See article, page 9, for more information.

LNG Investment Postponed

A consortium of investors, headed by Royal Dutch Shell, has postponed investment decisions on a \$40-billion LNG terminal

near Kitimat, BC. In a statement, the group cited 'global industry challenges, including capital constraints'. Andy Calitz, LNG Canada's chief executive officer, says the Kitimat LNG project has not been cancelled, it has been delayed, and not for the first time. The project was also stalled in February of this year. The announcement of this new postponement also delays the proposed construction of TransCanada Corp's \$4.7 billion Coastal Gaslink pipeline from northeastern BC to Kitimat.

The consortium includes the Mitsubishi Corporation, with a 15% stake, PetroChina Company Ltd, with a 20% stake, Korea Gas Corporation, at 15%, and Royal Dutch Shell, which holds 50% of the project.

Rally to End Raw-Log Exports

Environmentalists, locally elected officials, First Nations and members of major forestry industry unions rallied in Port Alberni in late July to call for a ban on raw-log exports.

Annually, BC exports more than six million cubic metres of raw logs, which critics say cuts down on the jobs that could be created if processing of timber happened in BC instead of overseas. BC has lost half of its mills since the 1990s and has the worst jobs-per-unit-of-timber-harvested ratio in Canada.

Kinder Morgan Hearings Well Underway

The current Kinder Morgan pipeline review's public hearings have found that 84.2% of the public oppose the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, while 15.8% support it, according to activist group Stand.

'We feel this process has failed us... it's done absolutely nothing to address [our rights],' said Tumia Knott, a Kwantlen First Nation.

Public meetings are being held in Burnaby on August 10 and 11, in Vancouver on August 17, in North Vancouver on August 19, and in Victoria on August 23. Online submissions can be made at www.nrca.ca/questionnaire/18721.

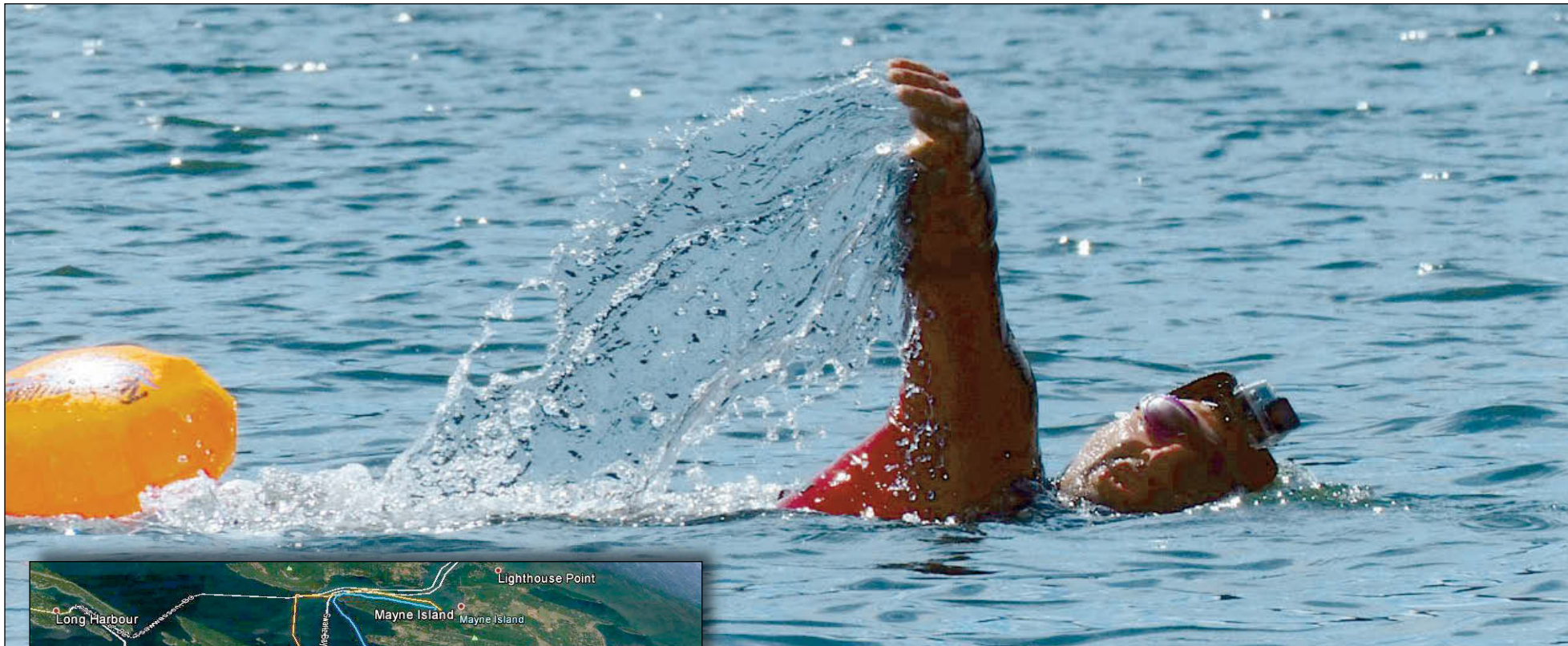
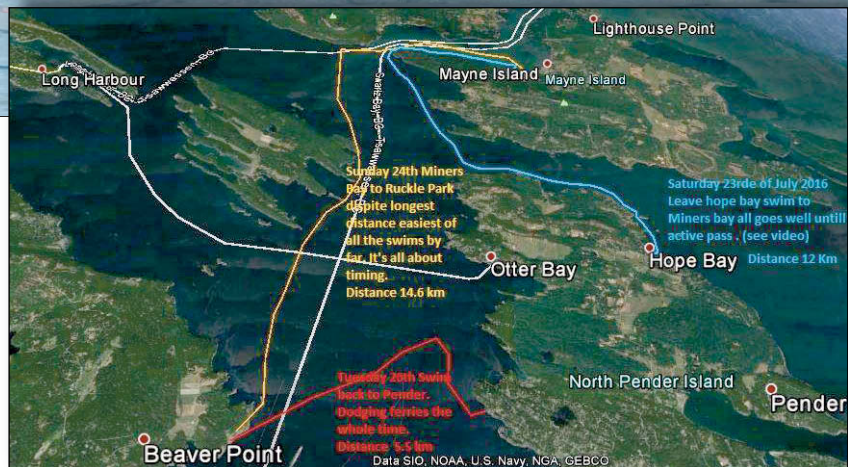


Photo: Brian Rundle

Pender Island resident Sandor Csepregi swam 45 kilometres in this year's Turning the Tide Peoples' Paddle throughout the Gulf Islands. The paddle is an annual peaceful protest of tanker traffic and the expansion of industrial development within the Salish Sea. Csepregi swam along the mapped out route to the left, accompanied by kayaks, canoes and rowboats.



Salish Sea's Salmon - Adam Olsen

The Fraser River Panel's July reports feature a glum forecast for the 2016 salmon run. River volumes and sockeye returns are lower than average, water temperatures are higher than average, and the commercial fishery remains closed.

Despite increasing challenges for the Pacific salmon, their importance to our coastal ecosystems and our identity has not diminished. So what can we learn from our past to inform the Pacific salmon policy for today and the future?

The Pacific salmon play a central role in the cultural, economic and spiritual life of the Straits Salish. The *ČENFEKI* moon, the sixth in the *WSÁNEĆ* calendar, celebrates the return of the sockeye to earth and when the Ocean Spray blooms in early June the *WSÁNEĆ* prepare for the coming salmon harvest.

The salmon give life to the creeks, streams, and all the flora and fauna of British Columbia. To the *WSÁNEĆ*, salmon are revered, they are honoured and deeply respected for their sacrifice. The salmon are our relatives and our stories tell of how they saved our lives.

The annual fishing season of the *WSÁNEĆ* began from our winter villages on the Saanich Peninsula. We moved our families to our harvesting sites located throughout the Southern Gulf Islands, just as the salmon's journey was ending, completing the sacred cycle of another generation.

Our stories tell us of a gift given to the *WSÁNEĆ*, the *SXOLE* (reef net), which allowed us to harvest the sockeye in the open ocean. Ancient knowledge of tides, timing and salmon migratory routes allowed the *WSÁNEĆ* to undertake an expansive enterprise that rivals the modern commercial salmon industry, but with distinct differences.

The Straits Salish harvest was the epitome of a sustainable industry and not because our ancestors

lacked the capacity to catch fish. Reef netting families returned to their *SWÁLET* (location) to re-establish a large scale operation capable of catching thousands of sockeye each day, in each net, with several nets lined up side-by-side at each location.

A reef net operation consists of two canoes anchored parallel to each other with a net strung tightly between. In front, a lead net gradually inclining from the ocean floor is attached to the front of each canoe, drawing the schooling sockeye between the two canoes and into a large net that billowed behind. This stationary fishing technique was efficient, accurate and generated tremendous wealth.

Once the nets were full, salmon were either selected for harvest or released. Reef netters saw greater value in the fish they released to spawn a new generation in their sacred lineage than the fish they harvested. A reef netter's inheritance was the fishing location, so great care was taken to not upset the delicate balance. Sustainability was enshrined in practice, in ritual and in law. It was not a law of the people, it was a law of nature.

That law and relationship are broken. Modern harvesting techniques are aggressive and they have degraded the sacred lineages of our relatives. The habitat once fed by the salmon throughout the entire Fraser River system, deep into the heart of British Columbia, has changed. The climate has changed.

The *WSÁNEĆ* held the Pacific salmon and their relationship with the fish in the highest regard because they saved the people when they were poor and hungry. Now it is time for people to save the salmon, who are poor and hungry.

We can learn from our past to build a resilient and sustainable home for future generations, but we must embrace an ancient relationship, a delicate balance and the restraint of the Straits Salish people.

Book Review by Phyllis Reeve Lynda Archer's *Tears in the Grass*

Elinor sighed against the tears in her heart. There had been so many tears. Tears... in her tea. Tears in the kitchen sink and in the outhouse. Tears in the grass.'

Three strong women from successive generations of one Cree family dominate *Tears in the Grass* and span the twentieth century. After ninety years of joy and sorrow and many decades of secrecy, Elinor Greystone is determined to find the child taken from her while she herself was still a child in a residential school. The cruel circumstances of the conception have never cancelled out her yearning for the baby she called 'Bright Eyes'.

She enlists the assistance of her daughter Louise, who as a teenager fled the reservation, in due course becoming a successful lawyer and the wife of a non-Indigenous teacher; and Alice, Louise's daughter, a member of the author's own generation who is ready to learn about the past. Louise and Alice unfold their own secrets as they engage in Elinor's search. Archer treats these three and their supporting cast with insight and empathy.

Lynda Archer first vacationed on an island in the Salish Sea almost twenty years ago. Born in Saskatchewan, she spent her professional life in Ontario. Now she lives in British Columbia on that same island and keeps on writing. The perceptions she called upon as a clinical psychologist are serving her well as a novelist.

Addressing the Saskatchewan setting and her role as a non-Indigenous writer, Archer says: 'I realized that if that land had that kind of meaning for me, how much greater must its meaning and relevance be for Indigenous, First Nations people... Ideas flowed from that deep place that one is only half conscious of when writing.'

Not by chance Elinor's favourite book is *Great Expectations*. *Tears in the Grass* sometimes approaches a Dickensian sense of the human comedy. In an epic episode the frail Elinor cunningly escapes from a hospital in Regina, navigates her halting steps towards the highway and hitches a ride east with a large Irish-born truckdriver. They develop a touching, hilarious and mutually respectful relationship as they drive across three provinces in an archetypically Canadian blizzard. But Elinor is no comic-book character; Archer portrays a woman of intellect and a gifted visual artist who perceives what her people have lost—and what more they are in danger of losing.

This strong, lyrical novel is set in 1968, before 'reconciliation' became a buzzword in the movement towards recognition of Aboriginal rights. Yet *Tears in the Grass* is all about reconciliation—reconciling the secrets within an individual, the misunderstandings between individuals, and only then the rifts and grievances between civilizations.



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